GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4326
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
CANCELLATION OF EMIGRATION CLEARANCE TO IRAQ
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether emigration clearance to Indian citizens travelling to Iraq has been cancelled;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the services of Indian workers and drivers who had gone to Kuwait have been terminated by their Kuwaiti companies due to the ban on travel to Iraq;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to raise this issue with the Government of Kuwait; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) The emigration clearance to the Indian citizens travelling to Iraq has been suspended in view of the deteriorating security situation in Iraq since 15 April 2004. Since the security situation in Iraq continues to be grim, the above directive continues to be in place.

(c) This Ministry is not aware of such developments that due to the ban on travel to Iraq, the services of Indian workers and drivers, who had gone to Kuwait, have been terminated by their Kuwaiti companies. In view of the above ban, the Embassy of India in Kuwait has issued press releases in the past advising all Indian nationals in Kuwait to desist from travelling to Iraq. Further, all companies based in Kuwait which employ Indian nationals are required to get their labour contracts attested by the Embassy of India and give an undertaking that the Indian nationals to be employed by them will not be deployed in Iraq.

(d) & (e) Not applicable.